

Readings for Week 6

“The Lord and the Lion: C. S. Lewis on Aslan and the Christian Life”

Assigned:

1. Ch 12: “The Queen of Underland” from *The Silver Chair*. *The Silver Chair* is the fourth volume of the *Chronicles of Narnia* which Lewis published in 1953, after *The Voyage of the “Dawn Treader.”* “Seventy Narnian years pass, but only a few months to Eustace, before he and Jill Pole are called away from their horrible co-educational school into Narnia. In *The Silver Chair*, Aslan sends Eustace and Jill with instructions as to how they are to find Caspian’s only son, Prince Rillian. They bungle the first step by Eustace’s failure to recognize the now aged Caspian. One of Lewis’s most delightful creations, the marshwiggles Puddleglum, leads Eustace and Jill into giants’ country in search of the Prince. They are waylaid in the giants’ city, but eventually discover Underland where a Witch, who has the Prince under her power, is preparing to invade Narnia with her army of Earthmen. Before they can escape, the Witch, by the use of enchantment, brings them to a state in which they are almost ready to disbelieve in Aslan’s existence” (part of plot summary from Walter Hooper’s *Past Watchful Dragons*, Glasgow, UK: Collins, 1980, p. 45).
2. Ch. 16: “Farewell to Shadow-Lands” from *The Last Battle*. “*The Last Battle* recounts the end of Narnia, many centuries after Aslan was last seen moving visibly through the world. Shift the Ape dresses the simple ass, Puzzle, in the skin of a lion and deceives the Talking Beasts and Dwarfs into thinking that it is Aslan himself. By that deception the Calormenes who worship the devil Tash are enabled to overrun the country. Tirian, the last king of Narnia, prays to Aslan for help and is rescued from the Calormenes by Eustace and Jill, who are mysteriously pulled into Narnia from a moving train. They steal Puzzle from the stable, and the Calormenes discover in that same stable the odious Tash (in whom they have lost faith) who carries off the Calormene leader and Shift. Tirian and the remnant of the faithful Narnians are either slain or make their way into the stable. Those who live to go in find it to be the door into Aslan’s Country” (part of plot summary from Walter Hooper’s *Past Watchful Dragons*, Glasgow, UK: Collins, 1980, p. 46).

Optional:

3. Portions of Ch. 7: “Theological Parallels” from Walter Hooper’s *Past Watchful Dragons*, Glasgow, UK: Collins, 1980, p. 98-112.